

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computing environment, a method comprising:
receiving annotation data of an author that is deemed
public and automatically sent from the author's device for
5 publishing; and

distributing the annotation data to at least one
recipient subscriber.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving annotation
10 data comprises receiving handwritten strokes corresponding to
a page of a publication.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the
annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises
15 combining the annotation data with other annotation data on a
shared canvas.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the shared canvas
corresponds to a page of a publication, and wherein receiving
20 annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes
corresponding to the page.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the
annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises

combining the annotation data with other annotation data on a graffiti page.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein receiving annotation
5 data comprises receiving handwritten strokes independent of any page of a publication.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the
annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises
10 accessing a list of subscriber users, and sending the annotation data to at least one subscriber user in the list.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein sending the annotation
data comprises automatically updating a subscriber.

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9. The method of claim 7 further comprising, receiving
a request from a computing device corresponding to a
subscriber users, and wherein sending the annotation data
comprises providing the annotation data in response to the
20 request.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising, persisting
the annotation data.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising, receiving data corresponding to a page of a publication, and wherein persisting the annotation data comprises persisting the annotation data in association with a the page.

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12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. In a computer network having a server and clients, a
10 system comprising:

an annotation device that is a client of the server, the annotation device including an annotations program that manages ink annotations input by an author and includes at least one operating mode in which the input ink annotations
15 are to be published; and

a send mechanism that sends the published ink annotations to a server for distribution to other clients.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the send mechanism
20 comprises a background send thread of the annotation device.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation program displays a page of a publication, and wherein the ink

annotations are received in association with the displayed page.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the send mechanism
5 provides an identity of the author, an identifier of the page of the publication and stroke data corresponding to the ink annotations to the server.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations
10 program includes at least one other operating mode in which received ink annotations are private.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations
program provides at least one warning to the author when the
15 operating mode is one in which the input ink annotations are to be published.

19. The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ink annotations are to be published comprises a
20 presentation page notation mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to subscriber clients.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ink annotations are to be published comprises a

shared canvas mode corresponding to a publication page in which annotations are distributed by the server to any other client in association with that publication page.

5 21. The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received ink annotations are to be published comprises a graffiti page canvas mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to any other client.

10 22. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations device includes a receive mechanism that receives annotations published by at least one other client and provides those annotations to the annotation program for presentation.

15 23. The system of claim 21 wherein the annotations device combines the received published annotations with the annotations input by the author for displaying to that author.

20 24. The system of claim 21 wherein the receive mechanism comprises a background receive thread.

 25. The system of claim 13 wherein the received annotations correspond to a shared canvas mode in which any

client receives data from any other annotations publisher in association with a publication page.

26. The system of claim 13 wherein the received
5 annotations correspond to a graffiti mode in which any client receives data from any publisher that is operating in the graffiti mode.

27. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device
10 further comprises a mechanism for subscribing to receive the public annotations of another user.

28. The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device
further comprises a mechanism for filtering which annotations
15 are presented.

29. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon at least one data structure, comprising:

a first set of data representative of authors of
20 published annotations;

a second set of data for each author corresponding to the published annotation data of that author; and

wherein a request directed towards the published annotation data of a selected author represented in the first

set of data is accessed from the second set of data
corresponding to the selected author.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29 further
5 comprising a third set of data representative of any
subscriber of each author.

31. In a computer network, a system comprising:
a first annotation device having a first annotation
10 program thereon on which an author inputs public annotation
data;

a second annotation device having a second annotation
program thereon which outputs annotation data, and

a server that receives the public annotation data from
15 the first annotation device and sends the public annotation
data to the second annotation device for output via the second
annotation program.

32. The system of claim 31 wherein the first annotation
20 program outputs annotation data, the second annotation program
inputs other public annotation data, and wherein the server
receives the other public annotation data from the second
annotation device and sends the other public annotation data

to the first annotation device for output via the first
annotation program.

33. The system of claim 31 further comprising a
5 background thread on the first annotation device that sends
the public annotation data to the server.

34. The system of claim 31 further comprising a
background thread on the second annotation device that
10 receives the public annotation data from the server.